

EXCERPTS FROM  
MEMOIR OF A ONE-LEGGED DIPLOMAT

I. (The Emperor's Birthday

April 29th is the Emperor's Birthday, the happiest day in the middle of spring.

I began to consider. Although the criminal was a Korean, there was no guarantee that the matter might not turn out to be serious, on account of the existence of certain wire-pullers. But Japan was now faced with the serious future of the Manchurian question. Therefore, it was absolutely necessary for the general future policy of our State to make an honorable end of the Shanghai Incident at this stage. Tokyo was far widely separated from the scene, and there might be a difficulty in making a right judgment. The Tokyo Government might have some complicated matters to take into consideration. This was the critical moment when the fate of the State trembled in the balance. My head was like blazing fire, and was full of thought as to whether or not I had left my duty undone. In the end, I thought it was my urgent duty to report to the Government my view of the new situation due to the accident; what might happen to my life was of no consequence.

So I had the chief members of the Legation, i.e., Messrs. Moriya and Horiuchi, First Secretaries, and Mr. Okazaki, Secretary of the Legation, called in a hurry to my bedside. I told them my idea, and, asking them to send an urgent telegram to Foreign Minister Yoshizawa, which, with pauses, I dictated. It was already late in the night, and the atmosphere around us was desolate.

The telegram was to the following effect:

"I presume that my wound is very serious, if not fatal, and regret that for some time to come, I shall not be able to execute my duties. In my opinion it is absolutely necessary, from a high viewpoint of State policy, in spite of the recent accident, to conclude the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities around Shanghai. If a step in the wrong direction should be taken at this moment, the future of the country would be led into an irretrievably serious position. If it should be considered necessary to have someone here for the purpose of keeping internal and external connection, I would suggest requesting Mr. Matsuoka to return to Shanghai, and to make efforts for a successful conclusion of the negotiations for the truce."

I also caused identical telegrams to be sent, as was customary, to the Japanese Delegation to the League of Nations and our main Ambassadors and Ministers in Europe and America.

I remember it was the morning of the 5th that Secretary Okazaki of the Legation entered my room without previous announcement, carrying in his hands something which looked like elaborate papers.

Without any preliminary comment he said:

"Minister! Here is the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities. Please put Your signature to it."

"Well, the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities has at last been concluded! This is a matter for congratulation. I am now relieved of my burden, I thought."

I was so glad at this auspicious event for our nation that I forgot the pain. Mr. Horiuchi, Secretary of the Legation, came in; then a British Secretary and a Chinese Secretary also appeared. All arrangements for the reception of

visitors seemed to have been made by my brother, after consulting with Dr. Goto. Because of the condition in which they found me, the visitors, to all appearances, preferred to spare little time for greetings, but rather to finish the business immediately, and then take leave. With help, I managed to sit up in bed as well as I could, and after listening to Secretary Okazaki's brief explanation, I signed at several places as he had indicated. At first the pen would not write well, and I felt as if I were unable to put in enough strength. But then as I made each signature, I felt I was gradually regaining the strength I had before the incident. Later I was told that my signatures grew weaker one after another, and caused much anxiety among those who were present.

This was the English text of the Agreement, and I signed the Japanese and the Chinese texts later. The signing was over at last, but still I could not feel that I had discharged my duties completely. Turning my face to the Chinese Secretary who was present, I said:

"It is a matter for profound congratulation for both Japan and China that the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities has been formally concluded. The two nations of East Asia are destined to be friendly. I hope that the Agreement will be a strong foundation for those friendly relations, and I shall redouble my efforts towards that end. Please convey this message of mine to Delegate Quo."

Holding out my uninjured left hand, I clasped his hand firmly.

As I said this, the Chinese Secretary appeared deeply moved. After having heard me, he replied:

"Certainly, I shall convey your message to Delegate Quo without fail. I am sure he will also sign the document in the same spirit."

After expressing his wishes for my recovery, he left with the other visitors.



Def. Doc. #1985

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned, Atsumu SHIGEMITSU, hereby certify that the "Sekkaku-ki" (Memoris of a One-legged Diplomat), printed in 1937 and consisting of 131 pages in Japanese, was published by me in that year as dictated by SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru.

Tokyo, January 27, 1947

(S) ATSUMU SHIGEMITSU

Signed in my presence  
on the same day at the  
same place.

Witness: (S) K. MIURA

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CERTIFICATE

I, MIURA, Kazuichi, hereby certify that I read, write and speak  
the English and the Japanese languages, and that I have made the  
English translation of

MEMOIR OF ONE-LEGGED DIPLOMAT

accurately and faithfully.

Tokyo, August 26, 1947.

/s/ K. MIURA



隻脚記 按卒

一 天長節の其の日

四月廿九日は春も盛りの楽しい天長節である。

自分は考へた。犯人は朝鮮人であつても如何なる背景があつて事が重大化せぬとも限らぬ。然し日本は大切な満洲問題の將來を控へて居る。上海事件は此邊で名譽の終局を告げることが國家將來の大局上絶対に必要である。遠く離れて居る東京政府は或は判断に苦しむことが有るかも知れぬ。東京の事情は複雑であらう。國家の安危如何の岐るる所である。此際自分の爲すべき職務にして尚残つて居るものはなきやと頭は烈火の如く熱して考慮に考慮を廻らした。其末萬が一自分の身が如何になるとも此事件に依つて起つた新形勢に付て政府に意見を上申するが

刻下の急務と感じた

そこで大至急に公使館の重なる人々守屋、堀内兩一等書記官及岡崎書記官等を枕頭に呼び集めて貰った。そして自分の意向を告げて至急芳澤外務大臣死に意見を電報する様にとて電文ととぎれとぎれに口述した時は已に夜に入つて俵の氣が四邊を籠めて居った。

「本使今回の負傷は或は致命傷に非ずとするも頗る重傷と判断せらる。就ては今後當分公務を見ること能はざるを遺憾とす。然る處今回の事件に拘はらず停戰協定は此儘成立せしむること國家の大局上より見て絶対必要と愚考す。此際一步を誤らば國家の前途に取り返しが付かざる破目に陥るべし。若し對内外の連絡等の爲め必要ならば至急松岡氏を再び上海に煩はし右停戰交渉成立に努力せしむることとし度し。」

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と云ふ様な趣旨であつた。そして之を例の通り國際聯盟代表や欧米に在る我が重なる大公使にも同文電報することとした。



五日の午前中と記憶して居る。突然公使館の岡崎書記官が手に何か奇麗な紙の書類をかざして乍ら入って来た。といきなり

「公使！署名を御願ひします、停戦協定です。」

と云ふ。自分は

「は、は——停戦協定も愈々出来上つたんだ——是れは芽出度い事だ。自分の荷も叩いた。」

と思つて國家の爲めに有難い事だと痛みを忘れて嬉しく思つたのである。堀内書記官も来り又英國の書記官も支那の書記官も入つて来た。總て一切の準備は兄が後藤先生と相談して整へて置いたもの、様である。之等の人々は自分の有様を見てか挨拶もそこそこ一刻も早く用事をすまして切り上げ様と云ふ様子に見受けた。自分はベツトの上に出來得る丈上半身を起して貰つて岡崎書記官の簡單な説明を聞いて指示せらるる儘に数ヶ所に署名した。初めはパンの具合でよく力が入らない様な氣がしたが漸次署名にも遭難前の力を恢復したと自分は思った。後で

聞くと自分の署名は一つ毎にばんばん力が弱くなつて行くので列席の人々は氣が  
氣でなかつたとのことであつた。

協定は英文の方で曰支兩國のは後曰に至つて署名を了した。署名は漸く消え  
が尚役目を全く果したとは感ずることが出来なかつた。自分は支那の書記官に  
を回けて斯うなつた。

「停戦協定が正式に出来たのは曰支兩國に取りく極めて喜ばしい。東亞に於ける  
兩國は元來親善であらねばならぬ。此の協定が其の親善關係の有力なる基礎たる  
ことを希望しそれに向つて更に努力を期待す。之を郭代表に傳へて貰ひたい」  
と云つてやられて居ない庄の手を差し延ばして堅き握手を交はした。支那の書記  
官は感動した顔付で之を聞いた後

「右の御趣旨は確に郭代表に傳へます。同氏も必ずや同じ精神で署名するであら  
う。」

と答へ自分の全快を繰返し祈つて他の人々と共に引き上げて行つた。



證 明 書

余重光族は一九三七年の印刷にかゝり日本文  
一三一頁よりなる「隻脚記」が重光葵の口受に  
より余が同年刊行せるものなることを證明す

昭和二十二年一月二十七日

東京に於て

重 光

族

D. D. 井 1985

余の面前に於て同日同所にて署名セリ

立會人 三 浦 和 一